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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Peter Kassan

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OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN
1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 100368403

EXAMINER

AL HASHEMI, SANA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2156

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/824,404	Applicant(s) KASSAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Sana Al-Hashemi	Art Unit 2156	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-6,8-11,13-15,18,21-23 and 27-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4-6,8-11,13-15,18,21-23 and 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is issued in response to amendment filed 11/18/2010.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8-9, 11, 13-15, 18, 21-23, 27-30 were amended. Claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 16-17, 19-20, and 24-26 were canceled. No Claims were added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-15, 18, 21-23, and 27-30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ruppelt et al. (Ruppelt hereinafter) US Patent No. 7,664,667 filed Jan. 10, 2000.

Regarding Claim 29, Ruppelt discloses a system for tracking assets purchased by a user consumer, and managing future services to be performed for the assets, the system comprising processor readable media operatively coupled to one or more processors (Col. 2, lines 43-49, Ruppelt);

at least one database provided on the processor readable media, the at least one database storing at least (Col. 4, lines 3-8, Ruppelt):

electronic asset information including information representing assets that are purchased and owned by a plurality of consumers (Col. 4, lines 8-15, Ruppelt);

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electronic asset category information including information representing a plurality of categories of the assets (Col. 4, lines 16-21, Ruppelt);

electronic service information including information representing at least one future service to be respectively performed for at least one of the assets (Col. 4, lines 30-41, Ruppelt);

electronic identification information including information representing at least one of a plurality of persons consumers (Col. 4, lines 44-49, Ruppelt);

electronic vendor information including information related to vendors that sell the assets to the plurality of consumers, service the assets after the assets are purchased by the plurality of consumers, or both sell and service the assets for the assets that are purchased by the plurality of consumers (col. 2, lines 55-67, Ruppelt);

the processor readable media having instructions for causing the following steps to be performed by the one or more processors (Col. 3, lines 59-67, Ruppelt):

receive over a communication network from a first user computing device electronic transaction information, wherein the electronic transaction information includes information representing an acquisition of at least one asset, a vendor identifier representing at least one vendor to provide at least one future service to be performed for the at least one asset, and an identifier representing at-least the consumer who purchased the at least one asset (Col. 5, lines 1-15, Ruppelt);and

receive, over the communication network from a second user computing device associated with the at least one vendor to provide the at least one future service, electronic service information that represents the at least one future service to be performed for the at least one asset (Col. 5, lines 35-43, Ruppelt);

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determine, based on at least the electronic transaction information and the electronic service information that a first service is scheduled for the at least one asset at a first time (Col. 5, lines 42-44, Ruppelt); and

transmit, over the communication network, an electronic notification to the first user computing device that the first service is scheduled (Col. 6, lines 1-4, wherein the confirmed service time, Ruppelt), wherein the transmitting occurs at a second time relative to the first time (Col. 6, lines 11-15, wherein the second call is made after the time has been confirmed, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 2, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to group the electronic asset information into groups of records, wherein the groups of records represent at least the categories of records (Col. 4, lines 30-38, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 4, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the electronic asset information further includes one or more data items selected from an information data group consisting of: warranties; periodic maintenance; payment schedules; payment history; proof of ownership of assets; proof of purchase; product recall data; tax related information; installment payment dates; expiration dates; renewal dates; expenditure history; and next mandated maintenance date (Col. 2, lines 65-67, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 5, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the electronic asset information further includes one or more data items selected from an information data group consisting of: time and date of transactions; vendor; personal data of purchaser; addressing information of recipient; personal demographic information about purchaser or recipient; generic description of

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an asset; contract terms and conditions; entity purchased from; and contact information (Col. 4, lines 44-51, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 6, Ruppelt discloses a system in which the data items also include transaction type information including: purchase, rental, lease, and contract signing (Col. 2, lines 58-63, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 8, Ruppelt discloses a system, wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to set a variety of authorization levels that determine and select records in the database that correspond with the variety of authorization levels (Col. 2, lines 54-67, Col. 6, lines 50-55, and Col. 7, lines 1-6, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 9, Ruppelt discloses a system in which the authorization levels are based on criteria selected from a criteria group that consists of: a user identifier; a requestor personal identification number; type of access rights granted; data that pertains to assets associated with a requestor; transaction code; asset and relationship tracking repository data record category; and vendor class (Col. 4, lines 16-17, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 11, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the electronic identification further includes respective personal preference information of the plurality of consumers (Fig. 8, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 13, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to respond to unsolicited requests for detailed information about the assets (Fig. 9, Ruppelt).

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Regarding Claim 14, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to receive a request for information from remote computing facilities (Col. 5, lines 35-41, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 15, Ruppelt discloses a system in which the request processor assigns a unique transaction number to each of the requests (Col. 6, lines 16-24, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 18, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to associate the at least one asset with at least one category represented by the electronic asset category information associations at the time a transaction is made (Col. 6, lines 25-30, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 21, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to display at least one of the electronic asset information, the electronic category information the electronic service information and the electronic identification information for the purposes of editing and viewing the same (Col. 8, lines 29-39, wherein the teaching of following a user to change the date or time corresponds to editing, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 22, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to provide decision support to at least one of the plurality of consumers based on at least one of a transaction and one or more assets owned by the at least one of the plurality of consumers (Col. 8, lines 45-51, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 23, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the decision support is based on heuristics and rules established by the user (Col. 8, lines 48-53, Ruppelt).

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Regarding Claim 27, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to enable user-to-user communications (Fig. 8, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 28, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to enable user-to-vendor communications and the transference of information from vendor-based databases to users at the request of users (Fig. 4, Ruppelt).

Regarding Claim 30, Ruppelt discloses a system wherein the processor readable media further has instructions for causing the one or more processors to schedule one of the vendors to perform a service for the at least one asset (Fig. 4, element 402, Ruppelt).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruppelt et al. (Ruppelt hereinafter) US Patent No. 7,664,667 filed Jan. 10, 2000 in view of Leong et al. (Leong hereinafter) US Patent No. 7,167,844 filed Dec. 22, 1999.

Regarding Claim 10, Ruppelt discloses all the limitations as stated above. However, Ruppelt is silent with respect to the system wherein the records in the at least one database are

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encrypted. On the other hand, Leong discloses a system wherein the records in the at least one database are encrypted (Fig. 38, element 3800. it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Leong teaching in the Ruppelt system. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to make such modification to improve the security of the Ruppelt system by encrypting the database.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 18, 21-23, and 27-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is 571-272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on 8Am-4:30Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on 571-272-4215. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sana Al-Hashemi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2156
January 29, 2011